

# Axia Health Doctor Hit With \$7.7M Birth Injury Verdict In Pa.

By **Jonathan Capriel**

Law360 (July 2, 2026, 8:30 PM EDT) -- A Pennsylvania state jury awarded \$7.7 million to the parents of a newborn who was briefly declared dead and suffered severe brain injuries after doctors allowed the mother to remain in the second stage of labor for more than twice the normal time and delayed resuscitation efforts, according to counsel for the family.

After a 14-day trial, a Chester County jury returned the verdict finding that Dr. Jared Tepper negligently injured the son of Christine Soring and Andrew Bailey during delivery. The obstetrician was at the time practicing under Regional Women's Health Group LLC, better known as Axia Women's Health. The verdict, issued Tuesday, will likely be Axia's burden and is expected to balloon into a \$9.5 million judgment, said Benjamin O. Present, partner at Kline & Specter PC, which represents the family.

"We are gratified that the jury paid such close attention to the evidence and reached such a careful and thoughtful verdict," he said in a statement Thursday. "Given [their son's] speech deficits that will persist long into his life, we asked the jury to speak for him. They did just that."

Counsel for Tepper, Ben Post of Post & Post, told Law360 on Thursday that they respect the judge and jury, but respectfully disagreed with the outcome.

"We do not believe that there was sufficient evidence that there was a breach of the standard of care that caused harm," he said. "We believe that there are significant legal and factual issues that warrant further review, and we are evaluating all available post-trial and appellate options."

The verdict came nearly four years after the family sued in the Chester County Court of Common Pleas.

The lawsuit claims that Soring, who has a small and differently shaped uterus, experienced elevated blood pressure throughout her pregnancy and was diagnosed with preeclampsia. Despite recommending delivery at 37 weeks, the delivery was delayed by six days, the family said.

On June 7, 2021, Soring was admitted to the hospital with dangerously high blood pressure, the suit said. After a 38-hour induction process, she remained in the second stage of labor for more than seven hours before a cesarean section was performed, it said.

The family pointed out that the normal range for a woman to stay in the second stage is about 2.9 hours.

"Keeping any pregnant woman in the second stage of labor for over three hours is a deviation of the standard of care and increases a baby's risk of harm," they claimed.

When their child was finally delivered, he was apneic and hypotonic, the family claims. His umbilical cord was wrapped around his neck three times and he was declared dead just before 3 p.m., but began gasping for air minutes later, the suit claims.

The child suffered brain damage, and he continues to have seizures and developmental delays due to the delivery, his parents claim.

Aside from Tepper, the parents sued several doctors along with various hospital entities, including Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Chester County Hospital.

Only three defendants were left by the time the jury deliberated. It found only Tepper liable, saying his actions fell below the applicable standard of care and that his negligence harmed the child, Present told Law360.

The family is represented by Benjamin O. Present, Aaron L. Dunbar and Marni S. Berger of Kline & Specter PC.

Tepper is represented by Ben Post and Chloë Mannings of Post & Post LLC.

The case is Sorring et al. v. Askinas et al., case number 2022-05818-TT, in the Court of Common Pleas of Chester County, Pennsylvania.

--Editing by Adam LoBelia.